Guide to the Bidwell Family Papers

Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 468

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:
The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu

Processed by:
The Bancroft Library staff
Encoded by:
Xiuzhi Zhou

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Bidwell Family Papers
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 468
Creator: Bidwell family
Extent: Number of containers: 8 boxes, 3 cartons, 2 oversize folders
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Part II: papers of members of the Kennedy Ellicott and Morrison families, related to Mrs. Bidwell, ca. 1792-1934.
Languages Represented: English

Access
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Preferred Citation

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[Identification of item], Bidwell family papers, BANC MSS C-B 468, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Title: Scraps of two letters
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-E 198:7)
Title: Letters, 1895-1899
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS 79/104 c)
Title: Journey to California
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-E 65:47)
Title: Dictation
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-D 802)
Title: California, 1841-1848 [an immigrant's recollections ... ]
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-D 8)

Printed items


"Studies in the Formation of Mountains in the Sierra Nevada, California," by John Muir. From the Proceeding of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Hartford meeting, August 1874.

"Early Botanical Explorers of the Pacific Coast," by Charles C. Parry. Reprinted from The Overland Monthly, October, 1883.

Photographs

Asa Gray Engraving of Asa Gray done by Gustav Krull Henry Marshall

Scope and Content

The Bidwell papers consist of the papers of John Bidwell, California pioneer, and his wife, Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell, and the papers of members of the Kennedy, Ellicott and Morrison families, related to Mrs. Bidwell. The Bidwell papers were given to Bancroft Library in 1952 by Mrs. Roy C. Anderson, Mrs. Bidwell's great niece. The collection has been divided into two parts. Part I consists of the papers of Mr. and Mrs. Bidwell - mainly correspondence, clippings, and legal, financial and land records, ranging in date from 1851 to 1918. Part II consists of papers of members of her immediate family and families related to the Kennedy, and they date from 1792 to 1934. Genealogical information about the Kennedy is appended to this report for the convenience of the reader.

Other items from various sources have been added to the collection. These include material from the T. W. Norris Collection (1954); photocopies of two John Bidwell letters, lent for copying by courtesy of Mrs. Helen W. Broderick (1954); papers purchased from William Wreden (1954); two account books and a diary belonging to Bidwell, gift of Warren Howell (1956); and documents concerning transfer of Bidwell property, gift of Bernard L. Fontana (1959). The provenance of these materials has been noted on the folders. Cards have been placed in the manuscripts catalog for important correspondents and for other items of note and information of the cards have been integrated into this finding aids.

Biography

John Bidwell was born in Chataqua County, New York State, August 5, 1819. Ten years later he moved with his parents to Erie, Pennsylvania and then to Ohio. In 1839 he decided to seek his fortune in the West. After some wandering he took up a land claim near Weston, Missouri and supported himself by teaching. During his absence, however, his claim was jumped and, hearing of the wonders of California from a French trapper recently returned, he resolved to make his way there. In May 1841 he started from Independence, Missouri, with Bartleson's party.

Arriving in California after many hardships, Bidwell found employment with John Sutter at Ft. Sutter and remained with him for several years. He served in the war with Mexico, obtaining the rank of major. At the conclusion of peace he returned to Sutter's employment. After Marshall's discovery of gold, Bidwell prospected for a time and discovered gold himself on the Feather River at a place afterwards known as Bidwell's Bar. Unlike most of the early settler's, however, Bidwell cared little for mining and directed his attention towards agriculture. In 1849 he acquired some 20,000 acres of land, known as Rancho Chico, located in Butte County. Making this his permanent home he became one of the most noted agriculturalists in the state.

John Bidwell took a strong interest in politics. In 1849 he was elected to the Senate of the first legislature of California. In 1860 he was a delegate to the national Democratic convention at Charleston. He was a strong defender of the union and after 1861 affiliated with the Union Party. In 1863 he was appointed general in command of the Fifth Brigade, California militia, by Governor Stanford and served until the close of the Civil War. In 1864 he was a delegate to the Baltimore national convention which renominated Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. In the same year he was nominated and
elected to the U. S. Congress as one of California's representatives. In 1875 he made an unsuccessful bid for the
governorship of California on the anti-monopoly, non-partisan ticket. His last political ventures came after his association
with the Prohibition Party. In 1890 he was the party's unsuccessful candidate for governor of California and in 1892 for
president of the United States.

Bidwell was married in 1868 in Washington D. C. To Annie Ellicott Kennedy, daughter of Joseph Camp Ellicott Kennedy, a
noted statistician and superintendent of the census of 1850 and 1860. The Kennedy family was a distinguished one. Mr.
Kennedy was the grandson of Samuel Kennedy, a surgeon in the Revolutionary War and of Andrew Ellicott, surveyor of the
ten mile square ceded by Maryland and Virginia for the seat of the federal government. Accompanying her husband to
California after their marriage, Mrs. Bidwell became active in many causes - Indian Welfare, woman suffrage, and
prohibition to name a few - and was recognized as one of northern California's finest women.

Bidwell died at his ranch on April 4, 1900. Mrs. Bidwell continued to live on the ranch and died there on March 9, 1918.

Box 1

**Correspondence of John Bidwell**

**Letters written to Bidwell, ca. 1851-1899**

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically. Most of the envelopes bear Bidwell's endorsement.

**Letters written by Bidwell, ca. 1850-1896**

Scope and Content Note
Drafts, originals and a few photocopies. Arranged chronologically with the exception of
letters to his brother-in-law, John Reynolds Kennedy and his mother and father-in-law, Mr.
and Mrs. Joseph C. G. Kennedy, which are in separate folders and filed chronologically.

Box 2

**Letters addressed to Mr. and Mrs. John Bidwell**

Scope and Content Note
These consist of letters, ca. 1877-1912, received from Asa Gray, John Muir, Charles C. Parry
and M. Slaughter. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and thereunder chronologically.

Box 3-5

**Correspondence of Annie E. K. Bidwell**

**Letters written to Mrs. Bidwell, ca. 1854-1918**

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically. Most of the envelopes bear Mrs. Bidwell's endorsement.

**Letters written by Mrs. Bidwell, ca. 1855-1918**

Scope and Content Note
Drafts, originals and copies. Arranged chronologically.

Box 6

**Clippings and magazine articles**

Folders of clipping about the Bidwells, the Indians and Rancho Chico and temperance
Magazines containing articles about the Bidwell's:

*The American Prohibitionist* (Jan. 1892)
*Out West* (Dec. 1903 & Jan. 1904)
*Overland Monthly* (Feb. 1896 & 1907).

Included also is a thesis: *John Bidwell, his early career in California*, by Edith Cady.

Scope and Content Note
Submitted to the University of California, 1927.

Ctn. 1

**Miscellaneous papers of John Bidwell**

Scope and Content Note
22 Folders, consisting of the following:
Personalia. Included are membership cards, military passes, etc.
Bidwell's notes on the Bear Flag revolt, early pioneers in California and the discovery of gold
Diary, Oct. 26, 1865 to Mar. 7, 1867, kept during sojourn in Washington, D. C. While member of Congress. (V. 1)
Statement of Bidwell concerning the conquest of California, as presented in two letters to S. H. Willey, Aug. 31 & Sept. 4, 1876.

Scope and Content Note
Photocopy, original at Harvard University. (V. 2)

Account books (v. 3-7)
Misc. accounts, bills, receipts, etc.
Legal papers and accounts concerning his brother, Thomas Joseph
Legal papers and accounts concerning his brother, Daniel, and the latter's son, Henry
Deeds to property
Canceled checks and bank statements, 1870-1877
Medals, badges, etc.
Papers concerning the Chico and Humboldt Wagon Road Co., Apr.-July 1883.

Scope and Content Note
Included are reports of citizens' committees of Butte Co., copy of articles of incorporation of the company, opinion of the attorney general are toll roads in Butte Co., some correspondence, and resolutions and petitions presented to the Board of Supervisors of Butte Co.

Copy of articles of incorporation of the California Central Narrow Gauge Railroad Co., Oct. 10, 1872
Papers relating to Asa Gray.

Scope and Content Note
Mainly reprints of his articles (some inscribed to the Bidwells) and memorial pamphlets.

Papers relating to Charles C. Parry.

Scope and Content Note
Included are reprints of his articles, a memorial biographical sketch, miscellaneous notes, drafts of articles on Rancho Chico and obituary clippings.

Papers concerning Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker.

Scope and Content Note
Included is a reprint of an address delivered before the Royal Society and a biographical sketch of his father.

Copy of Bidwell's will and letters relating to the estate.
Unidentified pictures
Petition of John Bidwell and John A. Sutter, ca. 1850, to the California legislature for location of state capitol at San Jose.
Miscellaneous papers from Annie E. K. Bidwell

Scope and Content Note
27 Folders, consisting of the following:

Biographical information concerning John Bidwell
Tributes to John Bidwell.

Scope and Content Note
Mainly typed transcripts of obituary notices appearing in various magazines and newspapers and of memorial resolutions and addresses.
Deeds to property
Miscellaneous land papers relating chiefly to Rancho Chico
Account books (v. 8-18)
Miscellaneous financial papers
Miscellaneous legal papers, relating chiefly to Rancho Chico
Notebooks containing inventory of household goods
Maps and plats of Rancho Chico
Map of Mrs. Bidwell's garden
Mrs. Bidwell's writings.

Scope and Content Note
Included are notes on conservation, and on observance of the Sabbath, notes on her "vision" after her husband's death, and a response to Chico City officials upon their acceptance of her gift of land for a park.

Poems written and/or copied by Mrs. Bidwell
Material concerning the Indians at Rancho Chico (Mechoopda Indians).

Scope and Content Note
Included are lists of Indians in residence there, copies of two articles or talks by Mrs. Bidwell on the Indians and a manuscript, Indian History, prepared at the request of Mrs. Bidwell.

Miscellaneous notes
Address books
Kennedy - Bidwell wedding announcement and list of guests present at the wedding, Apr. 16, 1868
Invitations, programs, menus, etc.
Visiting cards
Personalia. Included are school certificates, application for membership in the D. A. R., etc.
Dried flowers and leaves
Papers related to Mrs. Bidwell's will and estate
Tributes and memorials to Mrs. Bidwell
Miscellany

box Box1

Letters written to Andrew Ellicott Kennedy, 1828-1831

Scope and Content Note
Included are letters from Isaac Chauncey, Samuel L. Southard and the U. S. Navy Department.

Correspondence of Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy [Mrs. Bidwell's father]
Letters written to Kennedy, ca. 1859-1887.

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically

Letters written by Kennedy, ca. 1855-1882.

Scope and Content Note
Addressed to various persons, including members of his family, Abraham Lincoln and Roscoe Conkling. Arranged chronologically with the exception of letter written to his wife, Catherine, which are in a separate folder.

Correspondence of Catherine Morrison Kennedy [Mrs. Bidwell's mother]
Letters written to Mrs. Kennedy, 1868 & n.d.

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically
Letters written by Mrs Kennedy, ca. 1874-1881.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged chronologically

Correspondence of John Reynolds Kennedy [Mrs. Bidwell's brother]
Letters written to Mr. Kennedy, ca. 1867-1869.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically. Letters from his mother and from his sister, Mrs. Alexander, are in separate folders.

Letters written by Mr. Kennedy, ca. 1866-1873.
Scope and Content Note
Two folders, one containing letters to his brother, Joseph Morrison Kennedy, and the other, letters to William G. Sargeant.

Correspondence of Sarah Jane Kennedy Alexander [Mrs. Bidwell's sister]
Letters written to Mrs. Alexander, ca. 1868-1911.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically

Letters written by Mrs. Alexander, ca. 1868-1897.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged chronologically

Correspondence of Thomson Hankey Alexander [Mrs. Bidwell's brother-in-law]
Letters written to Mr. Alexander, ca. 1898-1913.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically

Letters written by Mr. Alexander, ca. 1912-1918.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged chronologically

Correspondence of Guy Reynolds Kennedy [son of John Reynolds Kennedy]
Letter written to him, ca. 1898-1927.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically

Letter written by him, 1893.

Correspondence of Joseph John Ellicott Kennedy [John R. Kennedy's son]
Letter written to him, 1909.
Letters written to him and to his wife, Winfred Moon Kennedy, 1918-1934.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically

Miscellaneous papers of the Kennedy family
Scope and Content Note
Mainly personalia and property, legal and financial records. Arranged alphabetically by name of the person to whom they pertain. There are spacial folders for the following members of the family:

Sarah Jane Kennedy Alexander
Thompson Hankey Alexander
Andrew Ellicott Kennedy

Scope and Content Note
Contains Nathaniel Chapman's recommendation of Kennedy as a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, 1826.

Catharine Morrison Kennedy
Cora Wayland Kennedy
Guy Reynolds Kennedy
John Reynolds Kennedy
Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy
Joseph John Ellicott Kennedy
Joseph Morrison Kennedy

Box 2
Papers of the Ellicott and Morrison families, related to the Kennedy, including:
Photocopies of two letters concerning Andrew Ellicott, 1792 & 1795
A letter written to Joseph C. G. Kennedy's mother, 1814
A poem written by her.
Letters from Joseph L. Morrison to his brother Robert, 1805-1806, and to Ann ?, 1814
Notes on Crawford Co., Pennsylvania by A. Huidekoper
Shares of stock issued to John McCielen by The Empire Mining Co. And the Copper Rock Mining Co., 1846
Letter from William Henry Seward to his son, Frederick William, ca. 1865

Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy (1813-1887) m. Catharine Morrison (1834-1897)

Children:
1. Joseph Morrison (1836-1892)
2. Annie Ellicott (1839-1918) m. John Bidwell
4. John Reynolds (1844-1877) m. Cora Wayland Children:
   1. Joseph John Ellicott (1876-1939) m. Winifred Moon

Children:
1. Annie Ellicott Kennedy m. Roy C. Anderson
2. Guy Reynolds5. Helen Ann (1846-1850)

Alexander, Sarah Jane (Kennedy), 1841-1912
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1862-1911 (27). Among letters written by Mrs. Bidwell are several addressed to her sister.

Alexander, Thomson Hankey
[Telegram to John Bidwell], n.d. Also, 4 letters, 1898-1911, in Mrs. Bidwell's correspondence.

Alvord, Benjamin, 1813-1884
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, Apr. 27, 1881.

Anderson, Annie Ellicott (Kennedy), 1907-
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, Feb. 14, 1918. Signed: Annie Ellicott Kennedy. Among letters written to Mrs. Bidwell are several addressed to her grand-niece.

Anthony, Mary S.

Avery, Rachel Foster, 1858-1919
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1907 (5). Some concerning woman suffrage.

Badè, William Frederic, 1871-1936

Bidwell, Annie Ellicott (Kennedy), 1839-1918
[Letters to various persons] 1855-1918. Written chiefly to personal friends and members of her family; some concern for the Civil War. Include one copy of one addressed to Gifford Pinchot, May 1905.

Bidwell, John, 1819-1900
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1867-1897 (6).
[Letters to various persons], 1850-1896. Include letters to members of Kennedy family, Peter Hardeman Burnett, John Augustus Sutter, Henry H. Ellis, E.B. Walsworth, Alexander Copeland, Patrick F. Walsh and others.

Bidwell, Henry C.
Letters to John Bidwell, 1854-1880 (6).

Bidwell, Thomas Joseph, 1821-
Letters to John Bidwell, 1851-1866 (23). A few of the early letters deal with cost of cattle and mules in California and of transportation to the East. Some letters written in Spanish.

California Central Narrow Gauge Railroad Company

Cheney, May L. (Shepard)
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, Apr. 15, 1905.

Chipman, Norton Parker, 1838-1924

Crew, Alexander H., 1835-
Letter to John Bidwell, Oct. 23, 1888

Dudley, William Russel, 1849-1911
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, Mar. 9, 1900. Enclosures: clipping from San Francisco Examiner, Feb. 22, 1900 concerning California big trees, and one page (typescript) of an article concerning Bidwell and the Sequoias.

French, Henry

Gray, Asa, 1810-1888
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. John Bidwell, 1877-1886 (28). One letter written for him by Sereno Watson. Many concerning California plants. Additional material concerning Gray described in key to arrangement.

Gray, Jane Lathrop (Loring)

Hearst, Phoebe (Apperson), 1842-1919

Hilgard, Eugene Woldemar, 1833-1916

Hooker, Hyacinth (Symonds) Jardine, Lady
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1910-1913 (3).

Hooker, Sir Joseph Dalton, 1817-1911
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1877, 1910 (2).

Kennedy, Catharine (Morrison), 1834-1897

Kennedy, John Reynolds, 1844-1877
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1868-1869 (4). With these: a postcard, Aug. 11, 1881, from his widow, Cora Wayland Kennedy. Among letters written by Mrs. Bidwell are several addressed to her brother.
Letters to John Bidwell, 1868-1876 (5). Among letters written by Bidwell are several addressed to Kennedy.
Kennedy, Joseph Camp Griffith, 1813-1887
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1855-1884 (64). Early letters concern his travels in Europe.
Letters to John Bidwell, 1869, 1880 (2). Among letters written by Bidwell are some addressed to Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy.

Kennedy, Joseph John Ellicott, 1876-1939
Letter to John Bidwell, Oct. 10, 1891. Also, 5 letters, 1891-1912, in Mrs. Bidwell's correspondence.

Kennedy, Joseph Morrison, 1836-1892
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1854-1891 (24). Some describe experiences during the Civil War.

London, Jack, 1876-1916
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, July 9, 1914.

Lubin, David, 1849-1919

Lusk, Franklin Crawford
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, Mar. 14, 1904. Among letters written by Mrs. Bidwell is copy of one, Mar. 16, 1904, addressed to Lusk.

Marshall, James Wilson, 1810-1885
Letter to John Bidwell, June 11, 1853.

Morgan, Thomas Jefferson, 1839-1902
Letter to John Bidwell, Sept. 8, 1888. Written for him by his wife.

Muir, John, 1838-1914
31 letters to Mr. and Mrs. John Bidwell, 1877-1912. Mainly concerning California plants, travels in California and Alaska, and glaciers.

Muir, Louise Wanda (Strentzel)

Murdock, Charles Albert, 1841-1928

Pammel, Louis Hermann, 1862-1931

Parry Charles Christopher, 1823-1890
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. John Bidwell, 1881-1889 (101). Chiefly concerning California plants.

Parry, Emily R. (Preston)
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1883-1902 (10).

Pike, Charles W.
Letters to John Bidwell, 1888 (3). Written as shipping agent for Rancho Chico.

Pratt, Orville C., 1819-1899

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Board of home missions.

Royce, Charles C., 1845-1923
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1904-1915 (5). Concerning financial status of Rancho Chico. Among letters written by Mrs. Bidwell is one addressed to Mr. Royce.

Seaton, Sarah Weston (Gales), d. 1863
Letter to Annie E. Kennedy [Bidwell], n.d.

Shaw, Anna Howard, 1847-1919

Shinn, Charles Howard, 1852-1924
Letter to John Bidwell, Apr. 17, 1899.

Slaughter, M.
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. Bidwell, 1899-1900 (3). Concerning temperance societies in Chico, California.

Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880
Letter to Annie E.K. Bidwell, Apr. 13, 1875.

Van Liew, Charles Cecil, 1862-

Willard, Francis Elizabeth, 1839-1898

Willey, Samuel Hopkins, 1821-1914
Letters to Annie E.K. Bidwell, 1900-1905 (3). With these: a tribute to Bidwell written by Willey. Facts concerning General John Bidwell, as a representative Californian, dated March 11, 1905.

Woodhull, Alfred Alexander
Letter to John Bidwell, July 28, 1879. Written in a printed invitation to a shooting match at the Presidio addressed to the Bidwell family by Lt. Col. J.C. Kelton. Enclosure: visiting card of Mrs. Irvin McDowell, with invitation to lunch in manuscript.

Chapman, Nathaniel, 1780-1853
[Recommendation of Andrew Ellicott Kennedy as a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania], Feb. 14, 1826. 1 leave. A.D.S. 25 cm. Followed by concurrences by William Gibson and John Redman Coxe.

Chaucey, Isaac, 1772-1840
Letters to Andrew Ellicott Kennedy, 1831 (2). Written as commander, U.S. Navy Yard, New York.

Gray, Jane Lathrop (Loring)

Hooker, Sir Joseph Dalton, 1817-1911
Letter to Sarah J.K. Alexander, June 6, 1911.

Kennedy, Joseph Camp Griffith, 1813-1887
[Letters to various persons, 1861-1882. Include letters to members of his family and to Abraham Lincoln and Roscoe Conkling.

Kennedy, Joseph Morrison, 1836-1892
Letter to Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy, July 20, 1864. Concerning the Civil War.

Pakenham, Francis John, 1832-1905
Letter to Joseph C.G. Kennedy, May 16, 1874.

Southard, Samuel Lewis, 1787-1842
Letter to Andrew Ellicott Kennedy, Mar. 29, 1828.

Thornton, Edward, 1817-1906